

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Replace the title on page 1 with the following replacement title, which is set forth below with markings showing the changes made relative to the immediate prior version.

Angled Tissue Cutting Instruments ~~and Method of Fabricating Angled Tissue~~
~~Cutting Instruments~~ Having Flexible Inner Tubular Members of Tube and Sleeve
Construction

Delete paragraphs (0014) - (0027) on pages 10-14.

Replace paragraph (0028) on pages 14-15 with the following replacement paragraph, which is set forth below with markings showing the changes made relative to the immediate prior version.

(0028) ~~These and other objects, advantages and benefits are realized with the~~
The present invention as is generally characterized in an angled tissue cutting
instrument comprising an elongate angled outer tubular member and an elongate
flexible inner tubular member rotatably disposed within the outer tubular member to
transmit torque in forward and reverse rotational directions. The outer tubular member
includes a proximal end, a distal end, a bend between the proximal end and the distal
end, and an opening at the distal end defining a cutting port in communication with the
lumen of the outer tubular member. The inner tubular member comprises a proximal
end, a distal end, an elongate tubular body between the proximal end and the distal end
of the inner tubular member, and a cutting configuration at the distal end of the inner
tubular member for exposure by the cutting port to cut anatomical tissue when the inner
tubular member is rotated within the outer tubular member. A continuous helical cut is

prior to the helical cut being formed therein. The helical cut is formed in the tubular body at a helix angle in a first direction about the tubular body to impart flexibility along the length portion by which the inner tubular member conforms to the angled outer tubular member while being rotated within the angled outer tubular member. A continuous solid flexible surface is secured to an outer surface of the tubular body. A flexible region of the inner tubular member comprises the helically cut length portion of the tubular body and the flexible surface secured to the outer surface of the tubular body along the helically cut length portion. The flexible region is in correspondence with the bend in the angled outer tubular member such that the flexible region is disposed within and conforms to the bend while transmitting torque to the cutting configuration when the inner tubular member is rotated relative to and within the outer tubular member in the forward and reverse rotational directions. The lumen of the tubular body defines an aspiration passage through the flexible inner tubular member, and an aspiration port at the distal end of the inner tubular member is in communication with the aspiration passage. An irrigation channel is defined between the inner diameter of the outer tubular member and the outer diameter of the inner tubular member. The flexible region replicates a solid wall tubular construction such that suction in the aspiration passage is not lost through the wall of the flexible region and irrigating fluid in the irrigating channel does not enter the aspiration passage through the wall of the flexible region.

Replace paragraph (0050) on page 27 with the following replacement paragraph, which is set forth below with markings showing the changes made relative to the immediate prior version.

(0050) Fig. 6 depicts a heat shrinkable sleeve 62 ~~position~~ positioned or disposed over the adhesively coated and helically cut length portion of the inner tube 44. The sleeve 62 has an inner diameter receiving the outer diameter of the adhesively coated and helically cut length portion of inner tube 44 with a loose fit to facilitate sliding the sleeve 62 into position on the adhesively coated and helically cut length portion of the inner tube 44 corresponding to flexible region 42. FEP (fluorinated ethylene propylene) shrink tubing may be used as the sleeve 62. Other materials which may be suitable for sleeve 62 include polyester and polyolefin as well as other heat shrinkable materials. The sleeve 62 may have a wall thickness of about 0.010 inch and may have any suitable shrink ratio to obtain a close or snug fit over the inner tube 44 in response to the application of heat as described below. As an example, the sleeve 62 may have a 1.3 to 1 shrink ratio.